

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: AHRQ-04-0001
TITLE: KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND APPLICATIONS SUPPORT
RFP ISSUE DATE: JULY 17, 2003
NOTICE OF INTENT DUE: AUGUST 19, 2003 (NOT CHANGED)
PROPOSALS DUE: SEPT. 16, 2003 2:00 PM EST (NOT CHANGED)
AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO RFP, DATED AUGUST 28, 2003 (16 PAGES)

ISSUED BY: MARY HAINES, CONTRACTING OFFICER,
AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE AND RESEARCH/ DHHS

The purpose of this amendment is to provide a template for the Small Business Subcontracting Plan and a duplicative copy of the Past Performance Questionnaire.

The Small Business Subcontracting Plan is to be submitted with the offeror's proposal (original and two copies.) Note: Small Businesses are not required to submit a Small Business Subcontracting Plan.

The Past Performance Questionnaire (duplicative copy) is for the offeror's use in obtaining past performance evaluations from clients. Past performance questionnaires are to be submitted to Mary Haines by September 16, 2003. They should be sent by the offeror's client/ customer to Mary Haines, Contracting Officer attention at 540 Gaither Road, Rockville, MD 20850. They may also be faxed to Mary Haines at 301-427-1740. (A previous version of this form listed the fax number and phone number as the same number--this was a mistype.)

DATE OF PLAN:_____

ADDRESS:

ITEM/SERVICE (Description):

\$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

TOTAL MODIFICATION AMOUNT, IF APPLICABLE \$ _____

TOTAL TASK ORDER AMOUNT, IF APPLICABLE \$ _____

The following is a suggested model for use when developing subcontracting plans as required by Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act, as amended, and implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Subpart 19.7. While this model plan has been designed to be consistent with statutory and regulatory requirements, other formats of a subcontracting plan may be acceptable; however, failure to include the essential information as exemplified in this model may be cause for either

a delay in acceptance or the rejection of a bid or offer when a subcontracting plan is required. Further, the use of this model is not intended to waive other requirements that may be applicable under statute or regulation. "SUBCONTRACT," as used in this clause, means any agreement (other than one involving an employer-employee relationship) entered into by a Federal Government prime contractor or subcontractor calling for supplies or services required for performance of the contract or subcontract.

**Subcontracting Plan
(Rev. October 2001)**

1. Type of Plan (check one)

_____ **Individual plan (all elements developed specifically for this contract and applicable for the full term of this contract).**

_____ **Master plan (goals developed for this contract) all other elements standardized and approved by a lead agency Federal Official; must be renewed every three years and contractor must provide copy of lead agency approval.**

_____ **Commercial products/service plan, including goals, covers the offerer's fiscal year and applies to the entire production of commercial items or delivery of services sold by either the entire company or a portion thereof (e.g., division, plant, or product line); this includes planned subcontracting for both commercial and Government business.**

2. Goals

State separate dollar and percentage goals for Small Business (SB), Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), Woman-owned Small Business (WOSB), Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Small Business, Veteran-owned (VOSB), and "Other than small business" (Other) as subcontractors, for the base year and each option year, as specified in FAR 19.704 (break out and append option year goals, if the contract contains option years) or project annual subcontracting base and goals under commercial plans.

- a. **Total estimated dollar value of ALL planned subcontracting, i.e., with ALL types of concerns under this contract is \$ _____ (b + g = a)**
- b. **Total estimated dollar value and percent of planned subcontracting with SMALL BUSINESSES (including SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB):**
(% of "a") \$ _____ and _____ %
- c. **Total estimated dollar value and percent of planned subcontracting with SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES: (% of "a") \$ _____ and _____ % Federal Subcontract Goal 5%**
- d. **Total estimated dollar value and percent of planned subcontracting with WOMAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES: (% of "a") \$ _____ and _____ % Federal Subcontract Goal 5%**

- d. Provide a description of the method used to develop the subcontracting goals for SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB concerns. Address efforts made to ensure that maximum practicable subcontracting opportunities have been made available for those**

concerns and explain the method used to identify potential sources for solicitation purposes. Explain the method and state the quantitative basis (in dollars) used to establish the percentage goals. Also, explain how the areas to be subcontracted to SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB concerns were determined, how the capabilities of these concerns were considered for subcontract opportunities and how such data comports with the cost proposal. Identify any source lists or other resources used in the determination process. (Attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

- e. Indirect costs have ____ have not ____ been included in the dollar and percentage subcontracting goals ____ above (check one).
- f. If indirect costs have been included, explain the method used to determine the proportionate share of such costs to be allocated as subcontracts to SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB concerns.

3. Program Administrator:

NAME/TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE/E-MAIL: _____

Duties: Has general overall responsibility for the company's subcontracting program, i.e., developing, preparing, and executing subcontracting plans and monitoring performance relative to the requirements of those subcontracting plans. Other duties include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- a. Developing and promoting company-wide policy initiatives that demonstrate the company's support for awarding contracts and subcontracts to SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB concerns; and for assuring that these concerns are included on the source lists for solicitations for products and services they are capable of providing.
- b. Developing and maintaining bidder source lists of SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB concerns from all possible sources;
- c. Ensuring periodic rotation of potential subcontractors on bidder's lists;
- d. Ensuring that requests for contracts (RFC) are designed to permit the maximum practicable participation of SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB concerns;
- e. Accessing various sources for the identification of SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB concerns to include the SBA's PRO-Net and SUB-Net Systems, (<http://www.sba.gov>), the Federal Acquisition Computer Network (FACNET) Contractor Registration Database, the NIH e-Portals in Commerce (e-PIC), (<http://epic.od.nih.gov/>), the National Minority Purchasing Council Vendor Information Service, the Office of Minority Business Data Center in the Department of Commerce, local small business and minority associations, contact with local chambers of commerce and Federal agencies' Small Business Offices;
- f. Establishing and maintaining contract and subcontract award records;
- g. Participating in Business Opportunity Workshops, Minority Business Enterprise Seminars, Trade Fairs, Procurement Conferences, etc;
- h. Ensuring that SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB concerns are made aware of subcontracting opportunities and assisting concerns in preparing responsive bids to the company;
- i. Conducting or arranging for the conduct of training for purchasing personnel regarding the intent and impact of Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act, as amended;
- j. Monitoring the company's subcontracting program performance and making any adjustments necessary to achieve the subcontract plan goals;

- k. Preparing, and submitting timely, required subcontract reports;
- l. Coordinating the company's activities during the conduct of compliance reviews by Federal agencies; and
- m. Other duties: _____

**Subcontracting Plan
(Rev. October 2001)**

4. Equitable Opportunity

Describe efforts the offeror will make to ensure that SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB concerns will have an equitable opportunity to compete for subcontracts. These efforts include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- a. Outreach efforts to obtain sources:
 - (a) Contacting minority and small business trade associations; 2) contacting business development organizations and local chambers of commerce; 3) attending SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB procurement conferences and trade fairs; 4) requesting sources from the Small Business Administrations (SBA) PRO-Net and SUB-Net Systems, (<http://www.sba.gov/>) and other SBA and Federal agency resources; and 5) Conducting market surveys to identify new sources, to include, accessing the NIH e-Portals in Commerce, (e-PIC), (<http://epic.od.nih.gov/>).
- b. Internal efforts to guide and encourage purchasing personnel:
 - 1) Conducting workshops, seminars, and training programs;
 - 2) Establishing, maintaining, and utilizing SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB source lists, guides, and other data for soliciting subcontractors; and
 - 3) Monitoring activities to evaluate compliance with the subcontracting plan.
- c. Additional efforts:

5. Flow Down Clause

The contractor agrees to include the provisions under FAR 52.219-8, "Utilization of Small Business Concerns," in all acquisitions exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold that offers further subcontracting opportunities. All subcontractors, except small business concerns, that receive subcontracts in excess of \$500,000 (\$1,000,000 for construction) must adopt and comply with a plan similar to the plan required by FAR 52.219-9, "Small Business Subcontracting Plan." (Flow down is not applicable for commercial items/services as described in

52.212-5(e) and 52.244-6(c).)

6. Reporting and Cooperation

The contractor gives assurance of (1) cooperation in any studies or surveys that may be required; (2) submission of periodic reports which show compliance with the subcontracting plan; (3) submission of Standard Form (SF) 294, "Subcontracting Report for Individual Contracts," and attendant Optional Form 312, SDB Participation Report, if applicable, (required only for contracts containing the clause 52.219-25) and SF-295, "Summary Subcontract Report," in accordance with the instructions on the forms; and (4) ensuring that subcontractors agree to submit Standard Forms 294 and 295.

Reporting Period	Report Due	Due Date
Oct 1 - Mar 31	SF-294	4/30
Apr 1 - Sept 30	SF-294	10/30
Oct 1 - Sept 30	SF-295	10/30
Contract Completion	OF-312	30 days after completion

Special instructions for commercial plan: SF-295 Report is due on 10/30 each year for the previous fiscal year ending 9/30.

Report forms are posted at <http://sbo.od.nih.gov> under "Forms.

Subcontracting Plan (Rev. October 2001)

- a. Submit SF-294 to cognizant Awarding Contracting Officer.
- b. Submit Optional Form 312, (OF-312), if applicable, to cognizant Awarding Contracting Officer.
- c. Submit SF-295 to cognizant Awarding Contracting Officer and to the:

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Humphrey H. Building, Room 517-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

- d. Submit "information" copy of the SF-295 and the SF-294 upon request to the SBA Commercial Market Representative (CMR); visit the SBA at <http://www.sba.gov/gc> and click on assistance directory to locate your nearest CMR.

7. Record keeping

The following is a recitation of the types of records the contractor will maintain to demonstrate the procedures adopted to comply with the requirements and goals in the subcontracting plan. These records will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB source lists, guides and other data identifying such vendors;
- b. Organizations contacted in an attempt to locate SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and VOSB sources;
- c. On a contract-by-contract basis, records on all subcontract solicitations over \$100,000, which indicate for each solicitation (1) whether SB, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, and/or VOSB concerns were solicited, if not, why not and the reasons solicited concerns did not receive subcontract awards.
- d. Records to support other outreach efforts, e.g., contacts with minority and small business trade associations, attendance at small and minority business procurement conferences and trade fairs;
- e. Records to support internal guidance and encouragement provided to buyers through (1) workshops, seminars, training programs, incentive awards; and (2) monitoring performance to evaluate compliance with the program and requirements; and
- f. On a contract-by-contract basis, records to support subcontract award data including the name, address, and business type and size of each subcontractor. (This item is not required on a *contract – by – contract basis* for company or division-wide commercial plans.)
- g. Additional records:

SIGNATURE PAGE
(applies to Master or Commercial type plans)

This master or commercial type subcontracting plan is submitted by:

Contractor: _____

Contractor Signature: _____

Typed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date Prepared: _____

And Is Accepted By:

Agency: _____

Contracting Officer Signature: _____

Typed Name: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT 2

PAST PERFORMANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

PART ONE: INSTRUCTIONS

The offeror listed below has submitted a proposal in response to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Solicitation No. AHRQ-03-0002, entitled "AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse." Past performance is an important part of the evaluation criteria for this acquisition, so input from previous customers of the offeror is important. This office would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete this form. **This information is to be provided to Mary Haines, the AHRQ Contracting Officer and is NOT to be disclosed to the offeror either verbally or in writing.** Please provide an honest assessment and return to AHRQ to the address shown below, no later than **September 16, 2003**. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Mary Haines at (301) 427-1786.

Mrs. Mary Haines
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Contracts Management
540 Gaither Road
Rockville, Maryland 20850
FAX: (301) 427-1740

NAME OF OFFEROR: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Contractor Performance Form

1. Name of Contractor: _____
2. Address: _____

3. Contract Number: _____
4. Contract Value (Base Plus Options): _____
5. Contract Award Date: _____
6. Contract Completion Date: _____
7. Type of Contract/Grant: (Check all that apply) () Firm-Fixed Price;
() Cost-Plus Fixed Fee Completion; () Cost-Plus Fixed Fee -Term; () Cost-Plus
Incentive Fee; () Cost-Plus Award Fee; () Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity
(Task Order);
() Blanket Ordering Agreement; () Labor-Hour; () Time & Materials; () Small
Business Set-Aside; () 8(a); () Small Business Innovative Research; () Sealed
Bid; () Negotiated;
() Competitive; () Non-Competitive; () Other
8. Brief Description of Requirement:

CONTRACTOR'S PERFORMANCE RATING

Ratings: Summarize contractor performance and circle in the column on the right the number which corresponds to the performance rating for each rating category. Please see next page for explanation of rating scale.

Quality of Product or Service	Comments	0 1 2 3 4 5
Cost Control	Comments	0 1 2 3 4 5
Timeliness of Performance	Comments	0 1 2 3 4 5
Business Relations	Comments	0 1 2 3 4 5

Customer Satisfaction - Is/was the Contractor committed to customer satisfaction? ___Yes___
_ No ;
Would you use this Contractor again? ___Yes___No
Reason:

NAME OF EVALUATOR: _____

TITLE OF EVALUATOR: _____

SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR: _____

-

DATE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

Rating Guidelines: Summarize contractor performance in each of the rating areas. Assign each area a rating 0(Unsatisfactory), 1(Poor), 2(Fair), 3(Good), 4(Excellent) 5(Outstanding). Use the following instructions as guidance in making these evaluations.

	Quality	Cost Control	Timeliness of Performance	Business Relation
	Compliance with contract requirements -Accuracy of reports -Technical excellence	-Within budget(over/under target costs) -Current, accurate, and complete billings -Relationship of negotiated costs to actual -Cost efficiencies -Change orders issue	-Met interim milestones -Reliable -Responsive to technical direction -Completed on time, including wrap-up and contract adm -No liquidated damages assessed	-Effective management -Businesslike correspondence -Responsive to contract requirements -Prompt notification of problems -Reasonable/cooperative -Flexible -Pro-active -Effective small/small disadvantaged business sub-contracting program
0- Unsatisfactory	Nonconformances are jeopardizing the achievement of contract requirements, despite use of Agency resources	Ability to manage cost issues is jeopardizing performance of contract requirements, despite use of Agency resources	Delays are jeopardizing the achievement of contract requirements, despite use of Agency's resources	Response to inquiries, technical/service/administrative issues is not effective
1-Poor	Overall compliance requires major Agency resources to ensure achievement of contract requirements	Ability to manage cost issues requires major Agency resources to ensure achievement of contract requirements	Delays require major Agency resources to ensure achievement of contract requirements	Response to inquiries, technical/service/administrative issues is marginally effective

2-Fair	Overall compliance requires minor Agency resources to ensure achievement of contract requirements	Ability to manage cost issues requires minor Agency resources to ensure achievement of contract requirements	Delays require minor Agency resources to ensure achievement of contract requirements	Response to inquiries, technical/service/administrative issues is somewhat effective
3-Good	Overall compliance does not impact achievement of contract requirements	Management of cost issues does not impact achievement of contract requirements	Delays do not impact achievement of contract requirements	Response to inquiries, technical/service/administrative issues is usually effective
4-Excellent	There are no quality problems	There are no cost management issues	There are no delays	Response to inquiries, technical/service/administrative issues is effective

5-Outstanding. The Contractor has demonstrated an outstanding performance level that justifies adding a point to the score. It is expected that this rating will be used in those rare circumstances where Contractor performance clearly exceeds the performance levels described as "Excellent."

END OF AMENDMENT 3, RFP 290-04-0001